

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 92-522
Reconstruction of I-95 Over West River
New Haven / West Haven**

**Minutes
Public Information Meeting
July 24, 2012 – 4:00 to 7:00 pm
ConnDOT District 3A, New Haven**

Present:

- John Dudzinski, Richard Armstrong, Brian Natwick, Douglas Hummel, Mark Rolfe, Brian Mercure, Ghazi Alsaqri, Tim Fields and Priti Bhardwaj from ConnDOT
- Robert Talbot, Thomas Laliberte, Joseph D'Agostino and John Koolis from Parsons Brinckerhoff

Presentation: Two project presentations were provided at 4:30 and 5:30. An introduction to the project and the team members was given by John Dudzinski. An overview of the project was given by Robert Talbot, summarized as follows:

- Project Scope: Project will tie into the New Haven Harbor Crossing Corridor "Q-Bridge" Improvement Program with the reconstruction of 1 mile of I-95 including the following; replacement of the West River Bridge, simplify two partial interchanges (existing 44 & 45) and provide a closed drainage system.
- Project History: Brief project history was given including previous public involvement and status of design.
- Proposed Layout: Project layout was presented.
- Proposed Interchange: Details provided of proposed Kimberly Avenue and Ella T. Grasso Boulevard interchange improvements.
- Construction Phasing: Overview of the planned construction sequencing.
- Readiness Factors: Right of Way – required takings & easements acquired: Permits – ACOE anticipated this month and all other permits have been obtained; and Utilities – relocation plans are complete.
- Construction: Construction will be administered out of District 3A in New Haven and an overview was given of West River with the "Q-Bridge Corridor" and the planned coordination and public outreach during construction.
- Schedule: Design will be completed late 2012. Construction is anticipated to start in the fall of 2013 with an approximate 5 year duration.

Public Comments and Questions:

- A resident that was on the Sea Street Advisory Committee provided positive feedback to the project and adjacent Q-Bridge Corridor. Project

Team provided history of changes in the design to reduce traffic movements into the Sea Street neighborhood.

- Question: Will flooding on local roads adjacent to the project be reduced?
Answer: Project will provide an improved drainage system – a separated/closed system with upgraded piping and new outlets.
- Question: Resident asked about subsurface support conditions for the West River Bridge.
Answer: Proposed bridge will be supported on piles 80 to 90 feet in length.
- Question: Is the project currently funded?
Answer: Funding has been allocated to complete the project.
- Question: What is the anticipated cost of construction?
Answer: Current estimate is approximately \$220 million and includes construction of the project, construction oversight and contingencies.
- Question: What is the federal and state participation in funding the Project?
Answer: Federal will provide 80% of the costs and the State will provide the remaining 20%.
- Question: Are the proposed traffic signals being interconnected?
Answer: The signals will be interconnected with “time-based” coordination.
- Question: Is the existing signal at Kimberly Avenue and Ella T. Grasso Boulevard (Route 10) being interconnected with the new signals?
Answer: Yes, it will be part of the signal system in this area.
- Question: What is the status of the land that will be made available with the closing of the I-95 southbound loop ramp?
Answer: As part of the permit process, this land will be designated a wetland and allowed to return to its natural state.
- Question: Where does the Harborside Trail lead?
Answer: The trail will be upgraded along Ella T. Grasso Boulevard between Kimberly Avenue and Sea Street. The trail terminates into the local street network and links to a trail system east of the project limits.
- Question: The new lane on I-95 SB from the Sargent Drive on-ramp to the Ella Grasso Boulevard Off-Ramp is confusing. Can something be done to improve signage on this lane or will the proposed West River SB on-ramp provide an improvement over the existing condition?
Answer: It is not anticipated that the West River Project will modify the Sargent Drive signage. The proposed West River on-ramp will provide a

significant upgrade over the existing condition with a designated acceleration/merge lane carried over the bridge.

- Representatives of the City Point Yacht Club attended the meeting. An overview of the project was provided, following was discussed:
 - Question: How will the project impact highway access to the Club?
Answer: No change will occur to access from I-95 to the Yacht Club. Specific required movements were explained with a project graphic.
 - Question: Will access in/out of Yacht Club be improved?
Answer: Yacht Club driveway will be aligned with Ella T. Grasso Boulevard on Kimberly Avenue and the intersection will be signalized.
 - Question: Will project construction impact boat slip and dock access?
Answer: Boat/slip access will be maintained throughout construction. There is a period during construction that dock access will not be possible and alternate ferry service will need to be provided. ConnDOT Right of Way (ROW) indicated all necessary agreements have been executed.
 - Question: What is the status of the lease of the parcel of land under the bridge? Will an easement be provided to the Yacht Club?
Answer: ConnDOT ROW representatives will check on the status of the lease and future easement/access to the parcel and report back to the Yacht Club.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.